

Cochin International Airport

736. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cochin International Airport is the first Corporate Airport where 10,000 NRIs from 30 countries hold major stakes and it is the fastest growing Airport in India and whether it has developed a full fledged township around the airport and is planning to run its own airlines;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study on the multi-faceted fast growth; and

(c) whether the experiences so gained there or techniques adopted by them, could be tried selectively in other State-run airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Cochin International Airport was promoted by the State Government of Kerala on Public-Private-Participation (PPP) basis. There are 14,000 shareholders, out of which 4000 are Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from 30 countries. During 2005-06, Cochin International Airport has registered 18% growth in terms of passenger traffic. As a part of the commercial Land Utilization Plan, Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has planned an Aerotropolis around the airport. CIAL has also floated an airline company. However, its commercial flight operations are yet to start.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Adoption of best practices in running the airports, including the State run airports is a continuous exercise.

New Air Cargo Complex at Thiruvananthapuram

737. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the construction of a new Air Cargo Complex at Thiruvananthapuram Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Cargo Terminal has been planned by Airports Authority of India (AAI) at Chakai side in the second phase of development of Thiruvananthapuram Airport. For this purpose, land measuring 30 acres has been identified for construction of Apron, Taxi track and Cargo Terminal.

(c) Does not arise.

Old Boeing Aircraft in Kolkata Silchar Sector

738. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 25 to 30 years old Boeing aircraft is pressed into service in the Kolkata-Silchar and Silchar-Kolkata sectors three days in a week;

(b) whether Government are also aware that on 11th February, 2007 there was leakage from the roof of an aircraft which caused concern to the passengers;

(c) if so, whether it is a high time that Government should replace the old Boeing aircraft in order to address concern of the passengers and ensure safety; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such snag was reported by Cabin Crew and Cockpit Crew on the aircraft which operated Kolkata-Silchar Flight on 11 February, 2007. However, on 14th February, 2007 water droplets were reported to be falling in the aisle over 1st, 3rd and 21st row as a consequence of condensation of cooled conditioned air without affecting the safety of aircraft and passengers.

(c) and (d) An aircraft can be flown as long as it is maintained as per the schedule approved by DGCA, based on manufacturers planning documents. The fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft is maintained in the state of continued